

Educational Horizons

MAY 2011

PLAINVIEW-OLD BETHPAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
www.pobschools.org

2011-2012 Proposed Budget

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dear Neighbor,

We're weathering the storm. Despite severe cuts in state aid to school districts, coupled with increased pension and health insurance costs throughout New York State, Plainview-Old Bethpage will be able to preserve its first-rate learning programs and minimize the district's tax levy increase. While the loss of state aid and the increase in mandated costs will certainly create fiscal difficulties for our school district, we have been determined to make certain that the reduction in state funding will not impact the educational programs that benefit our students. In addition, by implementing several cost-saving initiatives, and by planning the use of reserves, taxes for the coming year will be minimized for our residents.

Plainview-Old Bethpage schools are in good shape for 2011-2012. Programs will *not* be cut and taxes will *not* soar; we continue to honor our commitment to the community's children and the district's taxpayers. While the news media reports that many Long Island school districts are eliminating instructional programs and levying significantly higher taxes, such a troubling scenario will *not* be experienced by either Plainview-Old Bethpage students or the district's taxpayers.

How has Plainview-Old Bethpage been able to achieve these dual instructional and financial goals? The answer is through greater efficiencies, cost-reduction plans, and the strategic use of reserve funds. These are some of the steps that we have taken:

- Transportation costs have been reduced by over a quarter of a million dollars through new routing designs and other similar efficiencies. Also, through cooperative transportation bidding and seat-sharing programs with other schools districts, the budgetary savings have been significant.
- Energy-efficiency initiatives have resulted in LIPA rebates to the district. Moreover, the installation of energy-savings equipment, from lights to boilers, is also producing cost savings.

- School facilities are always being upgraded. Plainview-Old Bethpage is saving considerable budget funds by conducting renovation projects in-house through the district's Building and Grounds Department.
- Through cooperative purchases and acquisitions with other school districts, several hundred-thousand dollars have been saved. For example, cooperative purchasing for school supplies and equipment plus participation in the Nassau Workers Compensation Trust have generated savings of more than \$100,000.
- The school district has been able to refinance a portion of its long-term debt, thanks to Plainview-Old Bethpage's very favorable "AAA" bond rating. This initiative will save the school district more than \$1 million over the next 10 years.

Through all these strategies, the Plainview-Old Bethpage School District has sought to protect students and residents from the damaging consequences of increased mandated costs and state aid cuts. We believe our efforts are consistent with the expectations of our parents and residents. For the 2011-2012 school year, with community support, our student learning programs will remain intact, and our taxes will still be among the most modest in the region.

Please mark your calendar and remember to vote on May 17.

The Plainview-Old Bethpage Board of Education

Annual Budget Vote: Tuesday, May 17 • 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

PROPOSITION I: ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

REVENUE

	<u>Approved 2010-2011</u>	<u>Proposed 2011-2012</u>	<u>Change</u>
State Aid	\$14,465,596	\$13,901,233	-\$564,363
Other Revenue	\$5,935,449	\$6,938,281	\$1,002,832
Tax Levy	\$110,487,800	\$113,354,174	\$2,866,374
Budget	\$130,888,845	\$134,193,688	\$3,304,843

The tax levy increase has been limited to 2.59%

EXPENDITURES

2010-2011 Approved Budget	\$130,888,845
2011-2012 Proposed Budget	\$134,193,688
Percentage Increase	2.52%
Tax Levy Increase	2.59%

Expenditures include mandated costs attributable to employee retirement systems, health insurance, transportation, utilities and capital expenses

CAPITAL PROJECTS

*Taking Care of the
District's Physical Assets...*

	<u>Approved 2010-2011</u>	<u>Proposed 2011-2012</u>
Transfer to Capital	\$1,012,500	\$847,500

Capital projects include:

- Fire Alarm upgrades districtwide
- Reconstruction of boys' and girls' locker rooms at Plainview-Old Bethpage JFK High School

THREE-PART BUDGET EXPENDITURES

The State of New York requires all school districts make available a proposed budget broken down into three component parts; the three components of this budget format are Administrative, Instructional Program and Capital

	<u>Approved 2010-2011</u>	<u>Proposed 2011-2012</u>	<u>Change</u>
Administrative	13,276,880	14,004,727	727,847
Instructional Program	101,574,577	104,184,323	2,609,746
Capital	16,037,388	16,004,638	-32,750
Total	130,888,845	134,193,688	3,304,843

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, May 9: Presentation of the Final Proposed Budget (Public Hearing)

Tuesday, May 10: Voter Registration

Tuesday, May 17: Vote on Budget, Capital Reserve Fund Proposition and Election of School Board Members: 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Jamaica Avenue School, Old Bethpage Elementary School and Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School

PROPOSITION I: ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

BUDGET COMPARISON BY FUNCTION

Expenditure Summary	Approved Budget 2010-2011	Proposed Budget 2011-2012	Dollar Difference	Percent of Budget
General Support				
Board of Education	162,274	163,171	897	
Superintendent's Office	399,201	411,175	11,974	
Business Administration/Finance	1,244,479	1,204,302	-40,177	
Human Resources/Public Info/Legal	947,630	964,505	16,875	
Operations & Maintenance	9,953,812	10,173,288	219,476	
Insurance/BOCES	1,572,448	1,592,671	20,223	
Total General Support	\$14,279,844	\$14,509,112	\$229,268	10.81%
Instruction				
Curriculum Serv./Supervision	5,717,911	5,845,730	127,819	
Teaching - Regular K-12	46,149,379	46,334,028	184,649	
Special Education	15,223,658	15,190,725	-32,933	
Occupational Education	377,129	281,417	-95,712	
Continuing Ed & Summer School	104,448	154,034	49,586	
Instructional Media & Libraries	2,717,889	2,753,233	35,344	
Pupil Services	8,395,429	8,505,207	109,778	
Total Instruction	\$78,685,843	\$79,064,374	\$378,531	58.92%
Districtwide Support				
Main Transportation Contract	3,928,598	3,929,807	1,209	
Transportation - Other	3,471,608	3,526,022	54,414	
Community Services	133,452	158,927	25,475	
Employee Benefits	26,124,794	29,449,164	3,324,370	
TAN/EPC Contract	755,798	413,298	-342,500	
School Food Service Transfer	10,000	15,000	5,000	
Summer Spec Ed Transfer	233,654	52,333	-181,321	
Capital Transfer	1,012,500	847,500	-165,000	
Debt Service - District	1,845,404	1,825,701	-19,703	
Debt Service - Library Bond	407,350	402,450	-4,900	
Total Districtwide	\$37,923,158	\$40,620,202	\$2,697,044	30.27%
Total Expenditures	\$130,888,845	\$134,193,688	\$3,304,843	100.00%
Revenue Summary (estimated)				
State Aid	14,465,596	\$13,901,233	-564,363	
Local/Other Revenue	5,935,449	\$6,938,281	1,002,832	
Tax Levy	110,487,800	\$113,354,174	2,866,374	
Total Revenue	\$130,888,845	\$134,193,688	\$3,304,843	

PROPOSITION II: AUTHORIZATION TO APPROPRIATE AND EXPEND FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

In addition to voting on the 2011-12 school district budget, Plainview-Old Bethpage residents are asked to vote on Proposition II, a resolution authorizing the expenditure of \$4,364,500 from the capital reserve fund established in May 2010.



A capital reserve fund (CRF) was set up by the district to finance building renovations and infrastructure needs using monies from unanticipated revenues and unexpended funds. The Board of Education proposed the establishment of the fund, which the voters approved in May 2010. The Board is proposing the use of \$4,364,500 from

the CRF for multiple capital projects and infrastructure upgrades districtwide.

What infrastructure needs did the district identify?

The district used the 2010 Building Condition Survey, Five-Year Facilities Plan and Facilities Report Card to assess the needs of various district buildings. The intent of these reports is to identify the current condition of each POBCSD facility, and to serve as a tool for the district to actively manage its capital needs and goals. The projects detailed include masonry reconstruction, HVAC restoration

projections, courtyard repair projects, skylight and window replacement, parking lot and curb replacement, and telephone system replacement (IP telephony).

What projects will the CRF finance?

The following projects have been identified as long-term capital improvements to be funded by the CRF:

- Masonry reconstruction projects at POB and Mattlin Middle Schools, Old Bethpage, Parkway, Pasadena and Stratford Road Elementary Schools
- HVAC restoration projects districtwide
- Emergency gas shutoffs districtwide
- Courtyard repair projects at POB and Mattlin Middle Schools
- Skylight replacement at Mattlin Middle School and Stratford Road Elementary School
- Partial window replacements at Parkway and Pasadena Elementary Schools
- Parking lot and curb replacements districtwide
- Telephone communication access upgrades districtwide

Please visit our website at www.pobschools.org for more information.



Remember to Vote!
Tuesday, May 17
6 a.m. - 9 p.m.

**CHECK US
OUT ONLINE**

The full budget is available in the public library, all district schools and the superintendent's office.

It is also available on the district website,
www.pobschools.org

DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENTS

District Highlights...

- 93% of graduates receiving a Regents, Advanced Regents or Advanced Regents with Honors Diploma
- 97% of graduates pursuing post-secondary education
- 85% of students taking the Advanced Placement exam scored a 3 or better, 60% scored a 4 or 5
- 199 students receiving academic distinction from the College Board's Advanced Placement program
- 4 National Merit Scholarship semifinalists from POBJFKHS
- National Achievement Scholarship winner

Science, Math and Language Arts...

- Intel Science Talent Search finalist, 3 semi-finalists, 30 total project submissions
- 4 Siemens Math, Science and Technology Competition semifinalists, 22 total project submissions
- MIT Think Competition finalist
- National finalist in the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in Engineering, 4 regional finalists
- 11 Long Island Science and Engineering Fair finalists
- International Science and Engineering Fair finalist
- Toshiba Exploravision Competition finalist
- FIRST LEGO League Robotics finalist
- Three finalists at the International Sustainable World Energy, Engineering and Environmental Competition
- 6 Andromeda Competition finalists
- 7 Long Island Psychology Fair finalists
- 3 finalists in the Al Kalfus Long Island Math Fair Competition
- Research program acceptances at Cornell, NYU, Stony Brook and Rockefeller University

- 2 essays written by POBJFKHS students accepted into a new writing textbook
- 1 middle school student advancing to the NYS PTA Reflections competition
- Published poem by a middle school student in the Scholastic Newsletter "Storyworks" publication

Visual Arts...

- 1 Cornell Gold Honorable Mention fashion award
- 2 first-place winners of the Photography Federation of Long Island competition
- Over 300 students exhibited in the Annual Art Expo
- Two students honored at the Advanced Visions AP art exhibit
- 34 students honored at the ASA All-County art exhibition
- Participation in the Tilles Center Exhibition, as selected by invitation only
- 13 *Best in Show Awards* at the Long Island Media Arts Show
- 4 awards of excellence at the High Arts Showcase
- Scholar Artist Award in Media Arts
- 1st place in the Northeast Equine Art Expo
- Regional winner in the Vans Custom Shoe Design
- First-prize winner, 6 students exhibited in the LIATA Showcase
- 5 awards in the *Embracing Our Differences* diversity exhibit
- 1 ASA Scholarship Award

Music...

- 600 students participating in NYSSMA Evaluation Festivals
- 3 ensembles participating in NYSSMA Major Organization Evaluation Festival
- 126 students selected for participation in NMEA All-County Ensembles
- 13 LISFA Ensemble student participants

- 16 NYSSMA All-State students
- 2 student selected as Long Island Arts Alliance Scholar-Artist Winner
- 18 students selected for participation in the Hofstra University Middle School Honors Band
- 1,800 students participating in performing ensembles districtwide
- Marching band participated in numerous competitions and festivals as well as art openings, induction ceremonies, performance for senior citizens and many other community events

Athletics...

- 95 teams in 21 sports districtwide
- 1,723 participating students in interscholastic athletics
- 1,472 athletic contests and events annually
- 137 high school athletes won Nassau County Section VIII honors ranging from All-Conference to All-American in 21 different sports
- 12 Scholar/Athlete Teams as of the winter season

Extracurricular Activities...

- 58 students selected for the DECA International Competition
- Senior Citizen Prom held by POBJFKHS students for 170 Plainview seniors

Business Office...

- Preferred borrowing rates due to AAA Bond Rating from Standard & Poors
- In-house renovation projects and energy-efficiency initiatives resulting in districtwide monetary savings
- Significant budgetary savings by utilizing a new transportation system and partner agreements
- Lowered costs for goods and services due to renegotiated contracts and cooperative bids

BUDGET Q & A

Does the Board of Education set the tax rate? No, the Nassau County Assessor's Office sets the tax rate. The Board of Education sets only the budget amount, and the amount of the tax levy (the total amount of tax dollars needed to support the budget). The 2011-12 proposed budget is increasing by 2.52 percent and the tax levy is increasing by 2.59 percent.

Last year we were told that the tax levy increase was 2.90 percent, but our tax bills did not increase by that percentage. Why? The tax rate, and the total amount of tax dollars you pay, is determined by the Nassau County Assessor's Office, not the school district. School districts have no input in this process. Differences in tax bills are due to changes in the assessed values of individual properties in our community.

Why is the budget going up by 2.52 percent? The total budget increase in dollars is \$3,304,843. This amount includes all contractual and mandated increases, as well as textbooks, student supplies and equipment.

What cost-saving measures has the district taken? The district undertook several cost-saving initiatives, including moving the TAG special education program in-house, renegotiating leases on our copy machines and mail services, installing energy-efficient boilers and lighting districtwide, and utilizing the buildings and grounds staff for in-district renovation and reconstruction projects. In addition, the district uses a new transportation system that provides more efficient routing, and continues to participate in over 100 cooperative bidding consortiums.

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON BOTH PROPOSITIONS!

Proposition I: Annual School District Budget

Authorization to spend up to \$134,193,688 to support educational programs in the 2011-12 school year.

Proposition II: Authorization to Expend Capital Reserve Fund

Authorization to appropriate and expend from the Plainview-Old Bethpage Capital Reserve Fund an amount not to exceed \$4,364,500 with no increase or decrease to the proposed budget.

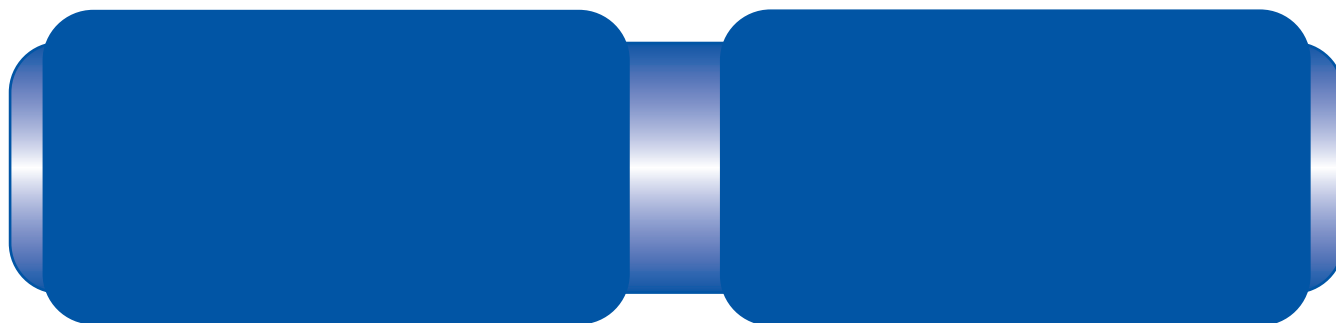
BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected as members of the Board of Education for the three-year terms commencing July 1, 2011, and expiring on June 30, 2014. You may vote a separate write-in candidate for each vacancy. You may not write-in the same candidate for more than one vacancy.

VOTE FOR TWO (2):

DEBBIE BERNSTEIN • CHARLIE MAZZOCCHI • GINGER LIEBERMAN



BUDGET VOTE INFORMATION

Tuesday, May 17, 2011 • 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Jamaica Avenue School • Old Bethpage School • POB Middle School

Voter Eligibility: In order to vote, you must be a United States citizen, 18 years of age or older, and must have been a district resident for at least 30 days prior to the vote. Eligible voters include those who have voted in federal, state, county or school district elections within the past four years; those who are registered with the Nassau County Board of Elections; and residents who registered during the school district's registration period.

Absentee Ballot: Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the district clerk one week prior to the

vote. If an absentee voter intends to pick up the ballot in person, that application must be filed with the district clerk by 5 p.m. on the day of the vote. Persons designated by the Nassau County Board of Elections as "permanently disabled" will automatically receive an absentee ballot by mail.

Voter Registration Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2011, noon to 9 p.m. at Jamaica Avenue School, Old Bethpage School and Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School.



Plainview-Old Bethpage Central School District

Administrative Offices • Washington Avenue • Plainview, NY 11803
www.pobschools.org

Board of Education

Gary Bettan, *President*

Amy Pierno, *Vice President*

Debbie Bernstein • Angel Cepeda • Ginger Lieberman

Evy Rothman • Emily Schulman

Gerard W. Dempsey Jr., *Superintendent of Schools*

**** ECRWSS ****

CURRENT RESIDENT
Plainview-Old Bethpage
Central School District

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Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hicksville, N.Y.
Permit 156